

ORAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPT

SUBJECT: CARL AND SHIRLEY ULRICH, Owners of Ulrich
Quarries and Gallery

Date: July 17, 1990

PLACE: Fossil, Wyo. in livingroom of Ulrich's
home and gallery

INTERVIEWER: Mark Junge

DATE OF TRANSCRIPT: April 27, 1993

PLACE: Department of Commerce
Publications Unit
Barrett Building
Cheyenne, Wyo. 82002

Page 1
C. and S. Ulrich
4-27-92

MJ: Today is the 17th of July 1990. My name is Mark Junge and I'm in the home of Carl and Shirly Ulrich in fossil Wy which is what, about three miles from Fossil Butte National Monument?

SU: More like five.

MJ: Five miles?

SU: We're about five miles from the new visitors center.

MJ: O.K.

SU: O.K. We almost border the monument.

MJ: Your property nearly borders it? O.k. and today we're going to talk about, talk a little bit about, their lives and how they got here, what they do, some of their concerns about this business and so what I usually do Shirly is just ask you first of all when and where were you born, what date?

SU: Let's see, I was born on June 3, 1926, in Oakly, Wy. which is a little mining town just south of Kemmerer that is no longer in existence.

MJ: Oakly is south of Diamondville?

SU: Right, it was a little coalmining town. My parents were coalminers. My father came from Montana and my mother came the Rock Springs/Sweetwater area.

MJ: What was your maiden name?

SU: Hankin.

MJ: Is that finnish?

SU: English, Scotch.

MJ: Oh, I see. So he came to this country to work in a coal mine?

SU: My father did, uh-hu.

MJ: Yeah.

SU: Yeah.

Page 2
C. and S. Ulrich
7-17-90

MJ: and brought your mother with him?

SU: Well, no. They were married here. He came. My father was actually born in Monatan and then came here. His parents came from England.

MJ: I see. I see. Carl how 'bout you, when and where were you born.

CU: I was born on February 14, 1925 at Kemmerer, Wy. My father being Adolph Fredrich Ulrich. My mother was danish and that a coherence of a german-dane which is my blood and now mixed with hers, our kids have a quite a few different bloods and nationalities.

MJ: How? What were the circumstances on his coming here?

CU: Well, he was a motor-machinist lathman for Union Pacific RR and he was employed by them here and met my mother in Provo, UT and they moved up here because of his employment was here at the round house at the Oregon short line RR at the round house in Kemmerer. It's since been deleted out and all that then I was born and shortly after I was born why a, my father come up missing so a my mother had two other boys and myself to raise and...

MJ: What happened to him?

CU: Uh, he just dissappeared.

SU: Abandoned.

CU: Never have heard or that'n my other two brothers were half-brothers and both of them were killed in W.W. II right at the start of it so that made me the sole-

surviving son of the family which ah, kept, which didn't keep me out of the service, but ah, it kept me from being in the action.

MJ: How many members did you have in your family?

SU: Just a brother. An older brother. Nine years older than me.

MJ: Ah-ha. Now how did you two come to meet?

SU: We went to school together. He was an upper-classman, very, very popular athlete, five star, and we did not get to know each other until he came home from the service and I was working in the drug store and I made the most tremendous milk shakes in the world.

Page 3

C. and S. Ulrich

7-17-90

SU: (CONT'D FROM PAGE 2) AND AH, HE CAME IN AND WE FELL IN LOVE. (LAUGH)

MJ: IN KEMMERER?

SU: AH-HA.

CU: IN KEMMERER, YES. WE WERE MARRIED IN 1947 AND A WE CAN BOST 43 YEARS OF HUSBAND AND WIFE AND AH, OH THERE'S BEEN A FEW PROBLEMS AT TIMES BUT AS LONG I DID WHAT SHE SAID, WE WERE ALRIGHT. (SU INTERUPPTS: WORKED OUT FINE) (LAUGHED)

MJ: HOW MANY KIDS DO YOU HAVE?

CU: WE HAVE ONE OF EACH KIND (LAUGH) THAT IS A BOY, HE IS FORTY YEARS OLD

SU: WELL, HE WILL BE FORTY THIS YEAR

CU: AND OUR DAUGHTER IS 38.

SU: WALLACE WAS NAMED FOR CARL'S TWO BROTHERS THAT WERE KILLED IN THE SERVICE. WALLACE WENT DOWN ON THE USS HOUSTON AND LEROY WAS IN THE DEATH MARCH AND SO THY GOOD LORD BLESSED US WITH OUR FIRST CHILD A BOY, AND SO WE NAMED HIM WALLACE LEE. OUR DAUGHTER IS GAYLE IRENE ULRICH JACOBSON. SHE MARRIED A JACKSON BOY AND THEIR RANCHER-FARMERS OVER AROUND PEREDIAN. THEY HAVE 3 CHILDREN.

CU: AND THEY'RE STILL IN THE DIRT BUSINESS. FARMING. (LAUGH)

MJ: MM HM. WHAT ABOUT WALLACE? WHAT DOES HE DO?

CU: WELL HE IS A, HE'S TAKING THE MATERIAL, THE MATRIX BELOW OUR EIGHTEEN INCH UNIT IN THE QUARRY AND IT'S A HEAVY DENSE BLACK-ORANGE A, VERY, VERY COLORFUL ROCK. SOMETIMES IT HAS SPECIMENS IN IT WHICH WE'RE UNABLE PREPARE OUT, BUT THE DIAMOND POLISHES THIS INTO A FLOOR TILING, TABLE-TOPS, EVEN DOORS AND HE DOES A TERRIFIC JOB, IT LOOKS VERY MUCH ITALIAN MARBLE, BUT ONLY IT HAS ALOT MORE COLORATION AND WITH A FISH OR TWO IN A PEICE OR TWO OF A, WHY IT'S, IT'S TERRIFIC. I'VE OFTEN TOLD SHIRLY, I SAID, I WISH I'D A THOUGHT OF THAT BECAUSE THAT LOOKS SO EASY TO WHAT WE'RE DOING AND HE LOOKS OVER AND LOOKS AT WHAT WE'RE DOING WHICH HE KNOWS WHAT WE'RE ARE. HE STILL THINKS THAT OUR PREPARATION AND QUARRYING THE FISH IS EASIER THAN WHAT HE'S DOING SO THERE WE ARE, WE'RE WORKING SIDE BY SIDE REALLY GOOD TOGETHER BUT YET ENVYING EACHOTHER IN RESPECTABLE WAYS. YES.